

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the listing of claims to read as follows:

1-11. (canceled)

12. (new) A process for the preparation of a cell culture support comprising the step of coating a microcarrier bead with gelatine or gelatine-like protein, said gelatine or gelatine-like protein having a molecular weight of about 40 kDa to about 200 kDa.

13. (new) The process according to claim 12, wherein the microcarrier bead is a non-porous bead.

14. (new) The process according to claim 12, wherein the microcarrier bead is a porous bead.

15. (new) The process according to claim 12, wherein the gelatine or gelatine-like protein has a molecular weight of more than 60 kDa.

16. (new) The process according to claim 12, wherein the gelatine or gelatine-like protein has a molecular weight of less than about 150 kDa.

17. (new) The process according to claim 12, further comprising the step of immobilising the gelatine or gelatine-like protein on the microcarrier.

18. (new) The process according to claim 12, wherein more than 75% of the gelatine or gelatine-like protein has the same molecular weight.

19. (new) The process according to claim 12, wherein the gelatine or gelatine-

like protein is recombinantly produced.

20. (new) The process according to claim 12, wherein the gelatine or gelatine-like protein comprises less than 5% hydroxyproline residues.

21. (new) The process according to claim 12, wherein the gelatine or gelatine-like protein has a net positive charge at pH 7-7.5.

22. (new) A cell support, consisting of microbeads having a size of between 50 and 500 μm , coated with a gelatin-like protein consisting for at least 95% of Gly-Xaa-Yaa triplets and containing at least 15% of proline residues and less than 5% of hydroxyproline residues, the molecular weight distribution of the protein showing a maximum between 40 kDa and 200 kDa, at least 75% of the protein molecules having a molecular weight within 2% of the maximum.